

Recommendation 1. By September 1, 2015, the Fire Service Advisory Committee to establish a regular meeting schedule, circulate the meeting minutes and update the FSAC website within 10 days of every meeting, in order to inform the community and firefighter ranks of scheduled meetings and agendas. In addition, the minutes for each FSAC meeting are to be circulated within 10 days of each meeting to all the members of the Napa County Fire ranks to keep them informed of the issues and the efforts to address them.

NCVFC response:

The volunteer chiefs agree with this recommendation. Clear and timely communication is a must. The Volunteer Chiefs agree with Finding 1. The FSAC meetings have largely been postponed or cancelled due to career FSAC members having other legitimate obligations during their normal working hours. The consequence of meeting cancellations results in little to no forward progress on important issues. The communication flow of the sub-committees should also be addressed. We recommend creating links at the county website to better communicate the agendas and minutes of the sub-groups.

Many in the volunteer ranks are involved and committed to this process. Most must take time off of work to attend these important meetings and the Volunteer Chiefs would like to acknowledge those sacrifices.

Recommendation 2. By September 1, 2015, the nine Napa County Volunteer Fire Chiefs to re-address their issues with the Memorandum of Agreement and the Site Use Agreement documents by sharing with the FSAC a detailed letter that lists and highlights each concern.

NCVFC response:

The Volunteer Chiefs disagree with this recommendation. The Volunteer Chiefs have provided the Barry Biermann, Napa County Fire Chief and Kevin Twohey, Liaison with a list of our concerns and possible remedies for the MOA and are waiting for the County to respond. We have been notified by the County Fire Chief that we will have a response by July 31st. As of this date, August 2, 2015, we have not received a response. Our agreement is between us and the County. If we are unable to come to an agreement, then we may use the FSAC, a public forum, to assist in resolving any pending issues. Until then, we will work tirelessly to achieve a mutual understanding based on collaborative efforts.

Recommendation 3.

By September 1, 2015, the Fire Service Advisory Committee to ask for input from all the Napa County Fire volunteer firefighters with regard to training issues and by December 31, 2015, to present a plan to resolve the identified training issues.

NCVFC response: The Volunteer Chiefs agree with this finding. The training sub-group has been engaged in adjusting the training requirements to meet industry standards in an effort to make compliance obtainable and realistic for volunteers. We agree that a survey may be a good tool to assist in creating a plan to facilitate training improvements. The volunteer departments Training Officers have been invited to provide questions to be included on the survey.